UNITED EVANGELICAL Action

MARCH 1, 1957

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VOICE OF EVANGELICAL CHRISTIANITY IN AMERICA

- Evangelical Broadcasters' Washington Convention
- The Christian West and Middle East Debacle

OFFICIAL NAE ORGAN

Readers Say—

Let's Be Fair

To the Editor:

LIFE magazine recently published an article by Wesley Shrader, "Our Troubled Sunday Schools." He attacks the Sunday school as "the most wasted hour in the week."

Many of the statements Mr. Shrader makes are true such as "ministers are often badly informed about what goes on at the Sunday school hour, even in their own churches," but taking the article as a whole it is unfair, unscientific, and behind the times.

My work as executive secretary of the National Sunday School Association takes me into all parts of this country. I am in churches of all denominations and I have never seen many of the things Mr. Shrader tells about. To cite extreme illustrations to prove a point is neither fair nor scientific.

It would be folly to contend that our Sunday schools are perfect. Far from it, but neither do we feel that the average USA Protestant Sunday School is nothing more than a glorified baby-sitting service, a place where children listen to grotesque stories and memorize verses, or a Sunday morning social hour characterized by a considerable amount of horseplay.

It is unfortunate that many college students who have been in Sunday school a big share of their lives are not better informed about the Bible and the Christian life, but it is also possible that many of these same young people would not be in college at all if it were not for their experience in Sunday school. How many young people would be in our Christian colleges, seminaries or Bible institutes if these same young people had never been in the Sunday school?

The Sunday school with all its weaknesses still brings more members into the church than any other agency. The Sunday school is the greatest aid in conserving the efforts of evangelism the church has. In fact, unless the converts to Christianity are integrated into the Sunday school and church life they are soon lost to the church.

Mr. Shrader admitted that great advances had been made in Sunday schools during the last ten years, but he left one with the impression that he could find few churches where they were doing any better. Where did Mr. Shrader look? Wherever it was he missed several things.

First of all, more people are going to Sunday school today than ever before. More men are going to Sunday school today and more men are taking an active part in the leadership of the Sunday school. More families are attending Sunday school today as families than in many years. This is due to better nursery facilities for small children for one thing, but it is also due to better grading, better teaching and better programming at the adult level. Of course, there is much yet to be desired, but tremendous advances have been made in the last decade and particularly in the last five years. Let's be fair.

In many respects Mr. Shrader's article is about twenty years late. Much that he said would have been more applicable in 1936 when Sunday school attendance and interest hit a proportionate low.

He says, "the reputation of the church school across the country is pretty low," whereas, the reputation of the Sunday school is going up and has been for several years.

What does he mean when he says, "the people know that the good old Sunday school broke about as many young people as it built?"

No other organization has done so much, for so many, with so little, and today we see that little growing in personnel, in facilities and equipment and even in finances. The Sunday school has not faced a brighter future this century.

Today Sunday school is on the march. Great gains have been made and greater gains are coming. Why? Here are a few of the biggest reasons. Improved curriculum is already available and in use in many if not most evangelical Sunday schools. Hundreds of Sunday school conventions are being held each year in all parts of the country. Here thousands of teachers and potential Sunday school workers have been challenged to attempt bigger things for God. They have returned to their local churches where many have enrolled in teacher training classes and as a result their teaching has improved. This added interest on the part of the teacher has brought a greater response from the pupils.

We are not ready to sing the *Hallelujah Chorus*, we need awakened pastors, and this means awakened seminaries and especially seminary leaders who determine the curriculum for our future preachers. We need awakened parents too, but we are ready to say that as far as many of the people who attend our evangelical Sunday schools are concerned our most valuable hour of the week is the one spent in Sunday school.

CLATE A. RISLEY

Chicago, Ill.

Credit Goes to BJU

To the Editor:

In looking over the February 1, 1957, issue of the *United Evangelical Action*, I noticed the picture of the ministerial students of Bob Jones University. I was surprised that this picture had been used and that no credit was given for it on the same page.

GILBERT STENHOLM

Greenville, S. C.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: We are glad to give credit to Bob Jones University. The photo was used as an example of American evangelical Protestant colleges not related in any way to the constituency of the National Council of Churches.]

FRONT PAGE PHOTO—As Christians enter the important pre-Easter season Bible reading, meditation and prayer come to have deeper meanings and richer values. In the light of the events of the Saviour's Last Week, the Cross and the Resurrection His followers will be inspired to new consecration and more effective Christian living. *—Photo by Lambert.*

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Action

United Evangelical Action

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JAMES DE FOREST MURCH
Editor

VERDA BLOOMHUFF
Office Editor

NAE STATEMENT OF FAITH

1. **We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative word of God.**
2. **We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**
3. **We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory.**
4. **We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful man regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.**
5. **We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.**
6. **We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.**
7. **We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.**

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Evangelical broadcasters meet in greatest convention in their history

NRB SEES GREAT GAINS IN RADIO-TV COOPERATION

By GLENWOOD BLACKMORE

EVANGELICAL cooperation in the field of radio and television reached a new high in the fourteenth convention of the National Religious Broadcasters in Washington.

Although attendance was strictly limited to evangelical broadcasting agencies and related interests some 200 were in attendance during the two days. It was estimated that 160 broadcasters were represented. They have programs on thousands of commercial stations and reach an estimated weekly audience of more than 60,000,000.

The atmosphere was tense due to the fact that the Broadcasting and Film Commission of the National Council of Churches had declared its opposition to the sale or purchase of radio or television time for the broadcasting of religion.[1] Many of the agencies represented at Washington had suffered the loss of stations because of the activities of local Councils of Churches and United Church Women.

Nevertheless the tone of the convention and the nature of the program were thoroughly constructive based on the clear cut objectives of the National Religious Broadcasters and their uncompromising stand for "the faith once for all delivered to the saints."

Clifford Barrows of Billy Graham's "Hour of Decision" flew up from Florida where he was engaged in a series of evangelistic meetings to lead the music. He opened the convention with great hymns of the faith. Then Cy Jackson, publicity director of "The Old-fashioned Revival Hour," brought greetings from Dr. Charles E. Fuller and led in prayer. Throughout the sessions there was a warm spiritual fellowship and a sense of dependence on God.

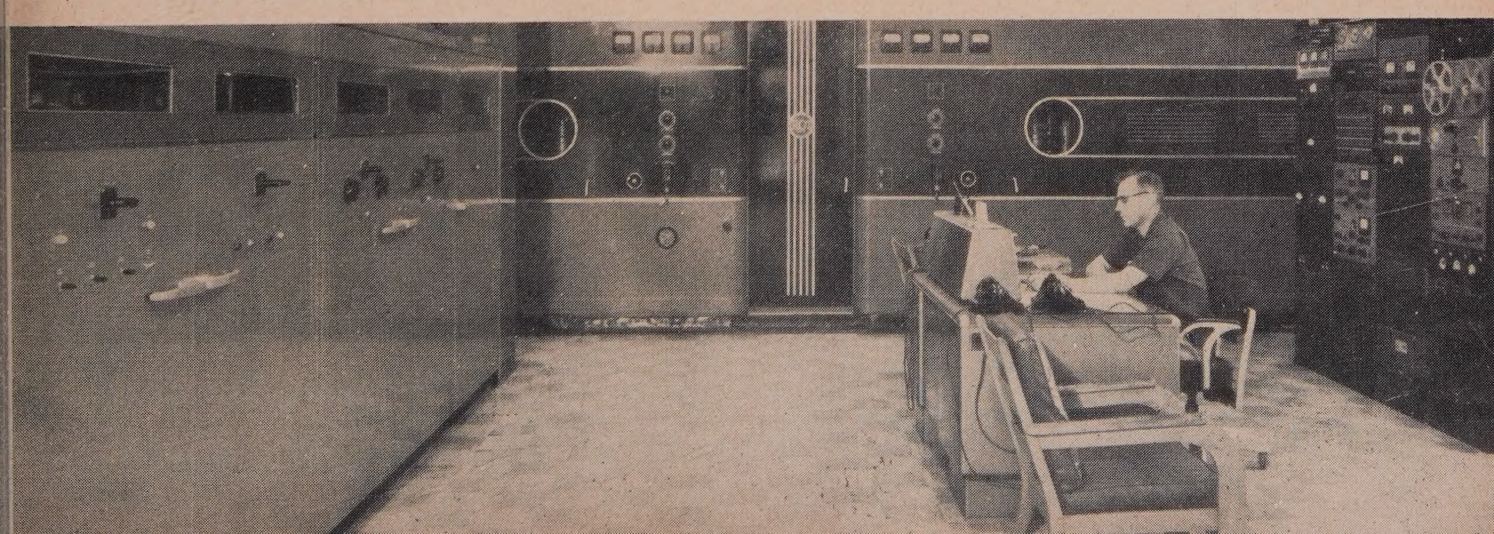
The industry's top executive, Mr. Harold Fellows, president of the National Association of Radio and Television Broadcasters (NARTB), in the first address of the conclave gave the viewpoint of the industry on religious broadcasting. He paid tribute to the place of religion in the nation's life and to the contribution of the National Religious Broadcasters in this field. He made clear that the relations between the two organizations had been most cordial and that he looked forward to continued cooperation and goodwill. Station managers across the nation have uniformly appreciated the importance of religious programs and have been most generous in providing time in the public interest, said their national leader.

Mr. Fellows clarified the attitude of the industry toward paid religious broadcasting in his interpretation of the Code. The NARTB Code, while not advising the sale of time for the broadcasting of religion, does not condemn, oppose or prohibit such sale. In practice the great majority of American broadcasting stations are selling time for religion, in addition to their generous gifts of "sustaining time."

NARTB's leader strongly advised religious broadcasters to strengthen their position by (1) improving the quality of their programs and (2) beaming their message to "the village green" audience. The heart of America needs the message of the Gospel. If religious broadcasters will keep alert to modern techniques and methods of approach to the people of the heartland and be true to their message, Mr. Fellows indicated that America's airwaves would be open to them for years to come.

Key leaders in the industry participated in the afternoon panel discussion on "Effective Religious Broadcasting and Telecasting," including Dr. George D. Crothers of CBS, Mr. Fred Garrigus of NARTB, Mrs. Margaret Kaemmerle of NBC, Mr. Wiley F. Hance of ABC and Mr. John B. Poor, president of MBC. Dr. Eugene R. Bertermann of "The Lutheran Hour" acted as moderator.

Christians who maintain the Christ-centered human view of history properly hold that our Heavenly Father permitted radio and television to be invented or discoverel, first and foremost, for the dissemination of His saving Gospel.—Dr. Eugene R. Bertermann at Washington.



A variety of viewpoints were presented ranging from Dr. Crothers' view which looked with disfavor upon paid religious broadcasting to that of President Poor, who strongly endorsed the practice. Mr. Poor was high in his praise of the broadcasters using the network facilities of Mutual and said he could not associate himself with the widely-held belief that religious programs adversely affected audience appeal. He questioned some of the rating agency reports cited in support of Dr. Crothers' contention.

Many highly critical evaluations of religious programming were favorably received by the convention as contributing to the correction of serious weaknesses. Many valuable suggestions were made for improvement of broadcasting methods. Seeing themselves as the industry sees them, was a refreshing and stimulating experience for religious broadcasters.

Seldom in any similar gatherings has there been such a representative meeting of minds between evangelical broadcasters and the industry. The event demonstrated the eagerness of the leaders of both groups to learn of mutual needs, to work out common problems and to achieve worthy ends in conference and goodwill.

Government's Attitude

The government's attitude toward the issue of the hour was well presented by the Hon. Warren E. Baker, chief counsel for the Federal Communications Commission. Mr. Baker, an active worker in the Lutheran church, was most sympathetic in his attitude toward the NRB and the viewpoint it represents. He made it clear that the FCC, while basically committed to all the constitutional freedoms, is concerned in the field of radio and television with the licensing of new stations and the renewal of their broadcasting rights. The chief counsel said that each station in making its application for a license must declare what percentage of its time will be devoted to the broadcasting of programs "in the public interest" which usually include religion. If the station should not provide the time alloted, complaints will be heard. When its license comes up for renewal its records of compliance would be reviewed; if the station's record was unsatisfactory its license would not be renewed.

High point of the convention was the presentation by Dr. Bertermann of the official statement of the NRB on "The Basic Principles of Religious Broadcasting" in view of the present crisis. The executive director of "The Lutheran Hour" was at his best in a fair-minded, comprehensive, logical, well-authenticated and incisive review of the situation created by the action of the Broadcasting and Film Commission of the National Council of Churches and the position taken by evangelical Protestant broadcasters.

NRB Principles

Program excellence, financial accountability, liberty of the air lanes and fidelity to the faith were the four great NRB principles which Dr. Bertermann so cogently presented. The address was received with prolonged applause, followed by a unanimous vote to have it printed and sent to all evangelical broadcasters of record and to all the key personnel of the radio and television industry, including every station manager in the USA.

Thus will begin a program of information concerning the great principles for which NRB stands. Far too many local station personnel know little or nothing of the existence of the NRB Code, the NRB itself, and the fact that 23,000,000 American Protestants are not represented by the National Council of Churches, but stand almost unitedly for the Radio-TV Principles held by the NRB and the Radio Commission of the National Association of Evangelicals.

Throughout Thursday a strong evangelical doctrinal note was sounded. Stirring addresses were given by Dr. Peter Eldersveld of "The Back-to-God Hour," on "The Urgency of Broadcasting the Evangelical Christian Faith"; Dr. Theodore Epp of the "Back-to-the-Bible Hour," on "Using the Word of God in Effective Broadcasting"; and Dr. Clarence W. Jones, president of the World Radio Missionary Fellowship and director of Station HCJB, "The Voice of the Andes," Quito, Ecuador. Here were revealed the spiritual and doctrinal motives that lead evangelical broadcasters to make the sacrifices of time, energy and money to send the Gospel message and the evangelical Christian testimony out to the needy millions in America and around the world. The evident blessings of God upon the cause encouraged the brethren. As one remarked, "This is a veritable time of radio revival. I am going home renewed in spirit to do a better job for the Lord. This convention has given me a broader vision of united evangelical action. It is a tremendous demonstration of what we can do when we work together."

The luncheon Thursday was an informal affair with many introductions, a brief symposium on the ministry of the NRB and the reading of telegrams and letters from many who were unable to be present for the convention but who wished to express their approval of its objectives. Of chief interest was the telegram from the President of the United States—

To the Fourteenth Convention of the National Religious Broadcasters, I send greetings and welcome to the nation's capital.

In the world-wide competition for the allegiance of the minds of men, your presentation of truth and loyalty can be most effective. Through your broadcasts to the people of our country and abroad, the message you preach helps to reinforce the spiritual stamina needed by mankind everywhere.

Best wishes for a successful convention.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

Following the reading of the message there was a moment of impressive silence, followed by a prayer for the President. It was then voted unanimously that the felicitations of the convention be expressed to him in an official communication.

The program closed with a panel discussion by government officials on the general theme, "Religious Broadcasting and the Menace of World Communism." Mr. John Broger, deputy director of the US Office of Armed Forces Information and Education and a member of the executive committee of NRB, moderated the panel. Among participants were Chaplain (Major General) Charles I. Carpenter, chairman of the Armed Forces Chaplains' Board and Chief of Chaplains for the Air Force; Dr. J. Russell Andrus, deputy chief, Education Division, International Cooperation Administration; and Mr. James C. Moore, religious adviser of the "Voice of America."

Valuable "behind the scenes" information was revealed concerning the encouragement the United States government is giving to every American agency engaged in the moral and religious amelioration of world problems. Audience participation in the panel made the session very helpful.

Washington Office

Business sessions at Washington were highlighted by a strong directive to the executive committee of the National Religious Broadcasters to expedite the establishment of a national office in Washington with a full-time executive director. A survey of the membership was ordered to determine a basis for underwriting of the required budget. The convention likewise strongly urged the implementing of the entire program of NRB as outlined

(Continued on page 15)

Action Editorial

James DeForest Murch

Middle East Debacle

■ CHRISTIANITY is being stifled in the Middle East and the forces which are responsible are being aided and abetted by the United States government.

We called attention to this tragic situation in our December 15, 1956 issue in an editorial, "The Revival of Islam," and a feature article, "New Threats to Christian Missions in the Middle East."

Since then conditions have worsened. We are amazed that American Christians seemingly have no conscience on the matter. Certainly they are doing nothing about it, although it is their government which by its diplomacy is contributing to the destruction of Christianity in this growingly crucial area of a world aflame.

The burden of our message last December had to do primarily with Christian missions, but there is a broader and an equally important aspect of the situation. There are approximately ten million Christians of various sects in the Middle East which in some measure at least have a Christian testimony.

The early Christian fathers came not only from Palestine but also from Syria and what is now Lebanon. In this area today we find the Melkite, Syriac-Catholic, Maronite and Armenian-Catholic churches. This group accept the authority of the Roman Catholic Church but practice Eastern rites. Alongside them are the Byzantine churches, usually referred to as the Eastern Orthodox. It is to one of these bodies that the Hon. Charles Habib Malik, Lebanon's ambassador to the USA, belongs.

In Egypt the Coptic Christians have a very considerable following. The whole nation of Ethiopia is nominally Coptic Christian and its enlightened ruler who regards himself as a direct descendant of Solomon and the Queen of Sheba is a devout Christian who has been most generous in his attitude toward American Christian missionaries.

The Arab nationalists in the Middle East, led by President Nasser and King Saud, are ardent Moslems and are moving rapidly to stamp out Christianity. Saud is a rigid Wahhabi, the most bigoted sect in Islam. Nasser has a religo-political hatred of everything Christian. Christian schools have been placed under Moslem control in many areas. Missionaries are being deported. In some places Sunday worship is prohibited. Every day sees some new device being used to smother and destroy the Christian community in the Middle East.

We are unable to understand the state of mind of such noble Christians as President Eisenhower and others high in our government who are allowing political expediency to close their mouths and blind their eyes to the crucifixion of Christianity in the Middle East. Is not this debacle the direct result of their present policies? Politically speaking there is such a thing as the United Nations' Declaration of Human Rights which might be invoked. Spiritually speaking there is such a thing as responsibility to Jesus Christ, the King of Kings.

Will the so-called Christian West continue to ignore its Christian duty in the Middle East?

Sunday School Caricature

■ A BODY BLOW was suffered by the Sunday Schools of America when *Life* magazine published Dr. Wesley Shrader's article, "Our Troubled Sunday Schools," in its February 11 issue.

The institution which J. Edgar Hoover of the FBI calls the most effective deterrent of juvenile delinquency in America today is held up to unjustified ridicule. Thousands of teen-agers will mouth Dr. Shrader's characterization, "The most wasted hour of the week," to convince their parents that they should drop the Sunday School from their Sunday agenda.

We are not unmindful of the modicum of good in the article. It is true that the churches should develop a more effective program of Christian education. We once wrote a textbook on the subject which is still widely used in Bible colleges and theological seminaries training young people for the Christian ministries. We have spent much of our time and energy to raise the educational level of the American Sunday School. But—

We have seldom if ever seen the sort of Sunday Schools described in Dr. Shrader's caricature. It is patent that there are thousands of inadequately trained teachers in our American Sunday Schools, but by and large they are "the salt of the earth." They are clerks and plumbers and waitresses and housewives and college professors and ministers and doctors and lawyers—all sorts. But they are earnest, consecrated servants of the Lord Jesus Christ and students of the Word of God who make considerable sacrifice to win souls to Christ, teach them the Holy Scriptures and train them in Christian character and service. And they are getting a job done. God and most sane men appreciate it.

Dr. Shrader overlooks some things which a Baptist minister and professor in Yale Divinity School should not—

Don't miss our big ANNUAL NAE CONVENTION NUMBER March 15. It will feature the Buffalo program and carry many challenging articles. Order extra copies for distribution in your community.

First, in these Sunday Schools the Word of Life is imparted. It may be simply a memory verse that a child learns and never forgets. The Word is living and powerful, Holy Spirit breathed, and capable of germinating life that can change and transform sinful human beings into children of God. God can use even a scrub woman to plant that truth in "wiggly, giddy kids."

Second, God uses all sorts of consecrated souls to set an example of love, understanding, guidance and Christian concern. Be they ever so humble they can touch young life and nurture it into beauty of character and usefulness in the service of God and humanity. Thousands of respected leaders in all phases of American life can testify to the influence of such Sunday School teachers in helping them make right decisions in crucial hours.

Finally, Dr. Shrader overlooks the divine element in the Sunday School. He is evidently a slave to cold philosophical propositions, to educational methods and programs which are purely intellectual in concept. There is no warmth and divine passion in his system. He puts program in the place of the Gospel and recognizes no possibility of God supplying the lack of ordinary people in the educational process. It is wonderful what God can do.

We believe that the Sunday Schools of America as they are today are being greatly used of God to His glory. They are going to do a better job tomorrow!

More on the "China Visit"

The National Council of Churches has made a move toward disclaiming responsibility for the suggestion that a group of American churchmen visit Communist China. The National Council made such a move after the State Department had expressed its gratitude to the National Association of Evangelicals for support of the government's efforts to discourage travel to the communist-controlled mainland of China.

On January 8, Mr. Clyde Taylor, NAE Secretary of Public Affairs, sent a letter to the State Department in which he stated that the proposed visit of churchmen to Communist China would be a "great discouragement to the leadership of the vital evangelical segment of the Chinese Church."

He stated that such a visit would "imply US approval of the collaborationist tactics of the leaders of the 'government-approved' church in China." He also added that it would produce an unrealistic picture and would bring greater pressure on the US Department of State toward recognition of Communist China.

In reply the State Department referred to Dr. Taylor's letter as "heartening." When copies of the State Department's letter were released to the religious press the National Council of Churches immediately took action to disclaim official connection with the proposed visit of churchmen to China.

The suggestion of a visit of American churchmen to Communist China had been made by Dr. John Mackay, President of Princeton Seminary, before a commission of the National Council of Churches, meeting in Indianapolis. His proposal was then studied by a workshop group which made a positive recommendation that Dr. Mackay's suggestions be put into action. This recommendation was then passed on to the Council's Department of International Affairs for further study and possible enactment.

A spokesman for the NAE in Washington said that Dr. Taylor's letter to the State Department had "not been for the purpose of expressing ill-will toward the National Council of Churches but rather to emphasize the consequences of a suggestion which had been made within the framework of the NCC and which is presently being carried forward within that body."

Temperance Conference

The National Association of Evangelicals was accepted to membership in the National Temperance and Prohibition Council during its annual meeting which was held in Washington, January 28-30. The NAE Washington Office, representing a constituency which takes an emphatic stand on total abstinence and related temperance issues has for several years cooperated with the efforts of the NTPC with regard to national legislation. Plans are now being made for NAE to increase its coordinating activities in the temperance field.

By a very narrow margin the Council voted down a change of name for its organization so as to avoid the word "prohibition." The move to change the name grew out of the feeling that the word "prohibition" tends to cause an adverse reaction on the part of some who would otherwise take positive action on temperance measures.

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The Council passed a resolution of commendation to President Eisenhower and his administration for a consistent attempt "to build political and moral atmosphere in the Nation's capital . . . . by the frequent outlawing of alcoholic beverages at state functions." In making this commendation of the administration the Council also urged a continued effort toward the elimination of alcoholic beverages from all national governmental life.

In another resolution the Council urged Congress to make a "comprehensive nationwide investigation of the total cost to the American people in economic, social and political aspects resulting from the sale and use of alcoholic beverages." It also urged Congress to bar the use of any portion of "representation allowances" for the purchase of alcoholic beverages. The representation allowances are requested annually by the Department of State for the conduct of diplomatic functions.

The Council also passed resolutions on alcohol advertising, airline liquor and liquor on military installations.

Federal Service Seminar

The first Seminar on Federal Service was held in Washington, D. C., February 6-8 under the auspices of NAE. The group was first given a specially conducted tour of the White House with a special greeting from Frederick Fox, Special Assistant in the White House.

Mr. Fox demonstrated the organization of the White House staff and the functions of the office of the presidency. He told the educators that interest in government service should grow out of a basic desire toward general public service.

The Seminar heard an address by John W. Macy, Jr., Executive Director of the Civil Service Commission, in which he stressed that colleges and universities "should encourage young people of high moral character to go into politics." He added that these same schools should do all they can to "discourage the popular attitude—so dangerously destructive to democracy—that politics is dirty business." He pointed out that politics and democracy is what the people make it. He pointed out also that it is up to the colleges and universities to "make every effort to see that all college trained young people know their government."

The Seminar was addressed by Lt. Gen. William K. Harrison who dwelt on Christian Leadership in Military Service.

J. Russell Andrus of the International Cooperation Administration spoke on "The Educator in Government Service."

The group spent part of its time at the State Department where it was given an explanation of the organization and function of the State Department as well as personal opportunities in the State Department and Foreign Service. The group was given an idea of opportunities on Capitol Hill and in the Department of Justice.

Glenn D. Everett, Washington correspondent of Religious News Service, addressed the group on the topic "Who's Who in Washington."

The Seminar was attended by representatives of some 25 evangelical colleges in addition to NAE regional directors and other religious leaders.

Anti-Pornography Bill

Rep. John Dowdy (D.-Tex.) has introduced in the House a bill which he described as "the most stringent legislation ever directed against those who mail pornography to minors." He was chairman of a House subcommittee investigating obscenity in the mails.

Mr. Dowdy proposes that the language of the present anti-obscenity law be completely revamped by Congress. He said the statute should be divided into two parts, one dealing with the offense of mailing material to juveniles and the other with such mailings to adults.

The Texas lawmaker seeks to counter challenges to the constitutionality of the law by striking out the traditional definition of articles that cannot be mailed—"every obscene, lewd, lascivious, indecent, filthy or vile thing"—and substituting more specific language that will not rely upon judicial interpretation of these adjectives for conviction.

He proposes that the new standard be defined as "any article which, in the opinion of the normal, reasonable and prudent individual, would suggest, induce, arouse, incite or cause, directly or indirectly, lewd libidinous, lustful or depraved thoughts, desires or acts."

The section pertaining to minors would provide a fine of up to $5,000 and imprisonment up to five years for anyone who deposits such a forbidden article "for mailing to any person under nineteen years of age or who is enrolled for instruction in any public or private elementary or secondary school."

The section dealing with the mailing of articles to adults would substitute a new definition: "Any article . . . which would have a corruptive, depraved or immoral effect upon such person," or which would "arouse lewd, libidinous or lustful thoughts, desires or acts."

Mr. Dowdy said he is separating the offenses on an age basis in order to ensure that if the section pertaining to adults should be found unconstitutional the section protecting the morals of minors would be subject to a separate test. It also would establish "two classes of crimes," the Congressman said, subject to separate indictments and penalties.

Evangelical Newsfront

RNS AND E/P REPORTS UEA CORRESPONDENCE

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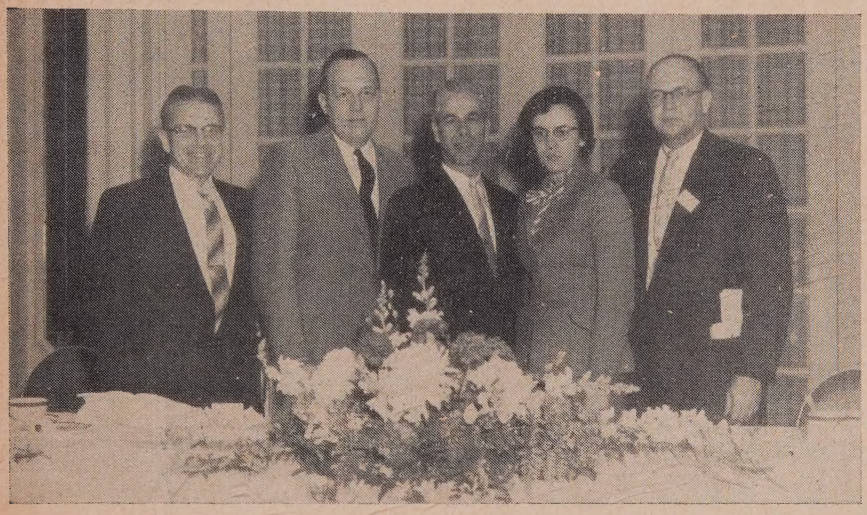


EVANGELICAL PRESS ASSOCIATION officers for 1957-58 elected at the recent annual convention in Cincinnati, Ohio. Reading from left to right: Rev. J. Fred Parker, editor of "CONQUEST," Kansas City, Mo., adviser; Mr. Mel Larson, managing editor of "YOUTH FOR CHRIST" magazine, Wheaton, Ill., vice president; Rev. Ralph Harris, editor-in-chief of Sunday School publications, Gospel Publishing House, Springfield, Mo., treasurer; Miss Jean Thompson, managing editor "MISSIONARY BROADCASTER," Chicago, Ill., secretary; Mr. Russell Hitt, editor "ETERNITY" magazine, Philadelphia, Pa., president. Absent: Dr. Oliver Wilson, editor "WESLEYAN METHODIST," Syracuse, N. Y., adviser.

PRESS

Evangelical Press Group Holds Largest Convention

CINCINNATI—The largest and most effective convention in the nine-year history of the Evangelical Press Association was held here recently at Hotel Sheraton-Gibson. Some seventy-five evangelical magazines and several religious publishers were represented by the 111 registered delegates.

The keynote address was given by Dr. Carl F. H. Henry, editor of *Christianity Today,* on the theme: "A Free Press in a Flustered World." His address concluded with these words: "A free press stands as a tower against tyranny, while an irresponsible press is an avenue to anarchy . . . By the grace of God may we resolve to keep both our heads and our headlines high."

Speaking three times during the convention was Dr. Clarence Hall, a senior editor of *Reader's Digest.* Of great practical help to the editors were his addresses on "Editorial and Feature Writing," and "Manuscript Appraisal." Following the Buffet Dinner in the Victory Room of the Sheraton-Gibson Dr. Hall threw out a challenge to Christian editors and all other Christians in his inspiring address on "Christian Missionaries Are My Heroes."

The closing address following the annual banquet was given by Rev. Joseph T. Bayly, editor of *His* magazine, on "How We Can Be Creative Editors." Also that evening awards were presented to outstanding magazines selected by the awards committee. *This Day,* published by Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo., was named "Magazine of the Year."

Practical technical advice from experts made the sessions of the convention exceedingly profitable to editors, publishers, circulation managers and all others connected with publishing a religious magazine. Addressing and mailing techniques, typography, photography and production were some of the subjects discussed.

Re-elected president of the Association was Russell T. Hitt, editor of *Eternity* magazine, Philadelphia. Other officers chosen were, for vice president, Mel Larson, managing editor *Youth for Christ* magazine, Wheaton, Ill.; secretary, Miss Jean Thompson, managing editor *The Missionary Broadcaster,* Chicago, and treasurer, Rev. Ralph Harris, editor-in-chief of Sunday School Publications for Gospel Publishing House, Springfield, Mo. William A. Ackerman of World Home Bible League, Chicago, was reappointed executive secretary.

The 1958 convention is scheduled for Washington, D.C., which, according to leaders, "will offer a great many opportunities to meet national personalities and include on the program Christian Senators and Congressmen and possibly foreign ambassadors."

RADIO-TV

Religious Doctrine Is Taught on TV Station

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—(RNS)—What is described as the first attempt by an educational television station in the United States to teach religious doctrine began February 4 on Station KETC here.

Protestants, Roman Catholics and Jews will share equal time in the eighteen-week series. The Roman Catholic Program is scheduled for the first six weeks.

The half-hour programs will be televised each Monday at 6:30 p.m.

Congregationalists Ask Senate Probe

BUCK HILL FALLS, Pa.—(RNS)—Agencies of the Congregational Christian Churches asked the Senate Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee to investigate the "arbitrary" cancellation of a scheduled showing of the film "Martin Luther" by a Chicago television station.

The action was voted unanimously by leaders of the Office of Communication and the Council for Social Action at the denomination's mid-winter meeting here.

In a letter to Sen. Warren G. Magnuson, chairman of the Senate committee, Rev. Everett C. Parker of New York, communications director, and Dr. Ray Gibbons of New York, head of the social action council, charged station WGN-TV of Chicago with violating constitutional and statutory rights in banning the film. They also proposed consideration of "remedial legislation to insure freedom of expression on radio and television."

The clergymen alleged that the Chicago station withdrew the film because of "protests by individuals and groups who stressed the fact that a presentation of the Protestant Refor-

mation was repugnant to them."

On the other hand, they said, the film story of the life of the 16th century Reformation leader presents subject matter "of importance to many millions of Christians throughout the world."

"Any viewpoint that runs at variance with another may be deemed controversial, even though it is historically accurate," the church officials said. "It is our view that broadcast licensees have a duty to present controversial issues and to broadcast recognized religious viewpoints."

Protestants Plan to Block Move of Station WGN-TV

CHICAGO —(RNS)— Protestant churchmen here protesting WGN-TV's ban on the film "Martin Luther" moved to block the station's request to broadcast at full power.

The Action Committee for Freedom of Religious Expression disclosed that Frank S. Ketcham, their Washington attorney, had asked the Federal Communications Commission to hold a public hearing on the station's pending application.

Mr. Ketcham, in a letter to the FCC, urged it to investigate WGN-TV position on "broadcasting public, controversial subjects."

The station began broadcasting with a maximum power of 317 kilowatts from its new Prudential Building antenna last year under a temporary permit. Its application for a permanent full-power construction permit is now being considered by FCC.

Mr. Ketcham told the F.C.C.:

"If WGN-TV still purports to have the policy of letting the public see and hear both sides of each important public issue, then that policy has been flagrantly violated in its arbitrary action in cancelling the Martin Luther film."

He noted that the station had stated in earlier FCC applications:

"Station WGN-TV believes that its listening and viewing public is entitled to hear all sides of each important public issue which confronts that public."

The attorney accused WGN-TV of sweeping "the entire matter off the air . . . just as soon as the matter became one of public controversy."

Dr. John W. Harms, chairman of the Action Committee, said "we are sorry that it was necessary to take this step."

Dr. Harms, executive vice-president of the Church Federation of Greater Chicago, said the committee will use "every legitimate means available to protect freedom of religious expression on television."

United Action

Gen. Harrison to Head Evangelical Welfare

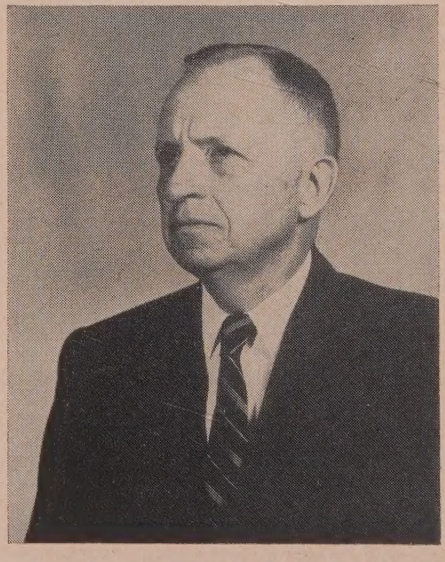
CHICAGO.—Lieutenant General William K. Harrison, soon to retire from the United States Army, has accepted an appointment as executive director of the Evangelical Welfare Agency. The organization is the Chicago subsidiary of the Midwest Region of the National Association of Evangelicals, and its program is the placement of orphaned or deserted children in Christian homes for adoption or foster care.

General Harrison will begin his civilian career March 1, following forty years of service in the United States Army. He entered military life during World War I. His first assignment was with the First Cavalry at Camp Lawrence J. Hearn, California, and Douglas, Arizona. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the cavalry in 1917.

Following the war, he served on the Army's language detail in France and Spain, after which he did duty at various posts in this country. He was made captain in 1920; major in 1932; colonel in 1941; then brigadier general, major general and finally lieutenant general in 1952.

He was graduated from the Command General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth in 1934, remaining as an instructor until 1937. At the beginning of World War II he was named Deputy Chief of the Strategic Plans and Policy Group of the Operations Division. During the war, as Assistant Division Commander, he accompanied the 30th Infantry Division overseas to England and the Continent. Returning from overseas duty, he was placed in command of Camp Carson.

In 1946 General Harrison was assigned to overseas duty in Japan where



LT. GEN. WILLIAM K. HARRISON
New Evangelical Welfare Head

his activities centered on reparations and economic and industrial affairs. He was appointed Deputy Commander of the Eighth Army in Korea in 1951. During this time he rose to the position of Chief of Staff of Far East and United Nations Commands.

He was appointed Chief UNC Delegate to the Military Armistice Conference at Panmunjom on May 21, 1952. He was in charge of negotiations with the Communists which resulted in the armistice and cease-fire in Korea on July 27, 1953, and signed the armistice document for the United Nations.

In 1954 General Harrison was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Caribbean area, which position he held until January, 1957, when he returned to the United States pending retirement from active service.

The Evangelical Welfare Agency, chartered in 1950, has its headquarters at 542 South Dearborn Street in Chicago, and is currently aiding 140 children. It serves, on an interdenominational basis, both white and colored children. The agency's activities are governed by an 18 member board whose chairman is a Chicago attorney, Harold B. MacKenzie. The EWA is supported largely by evangelical Protestants.

Having expressed the desire to devote the years following retirement from the army to Christian service, General Harrison will succeed Dr. Harold L. Lundquist, who resigned January 1.

Instrumental in interesting the general in the Evangelical Welfare Agency was Dr. Harold H. Hamlin of Chicago, an EWA board member, who was associated with General Harrison on General Douglas MacArthur's staff in Japan following World War II.

General Harrison has long been noted for his Christian leadership. Throughout his years of military service he was active in aiding his men spiritually, both by private counsel and public speaking in army chapels.

Assemblies

Indoor Camp Meeting Stirs Spiritual Life

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.—A great spirit of giving and surrender to the will of God came at the seventh annual Indoor Camp meeting that closed its eight-day program in Cadle Tabernacle, Indianapolis, recently.

The spirit completely dissolved all complications resulting from sub-zero temperatures and icy driving conditions that attended the first six days of the meeting, and placed the Indoor Camp on a firmer financial basis than it had ever enjoyed before.

Spontaneous giving on the last two days of the camp brought in cash and pledges totaling nearly $5,000 toward expenses of the 1958 program. It was the first time in its seven years that the audience had been invited to underwrite expenses in advance.

Several scores of seekers found help at the camp altars following the anointed preaching of a corps of workers.

Rev. P. O. Carpenter, Ashland, Ky., Pilgrim Holiness, preached at night. Daytime speakers were: Dr. G. B. Williamson, Kansas City, Nazarene general superintendent; Dr. T. M. Anderson, Wilmore, Ky., Nazarene evangelist; Dr. Myron F. Boyd, Winona Lake, radio voice of the Free Methodist church; Dr. Paul S. Rees, Minneapolis; and Dr. Roy S. Nicholson, Syracuse, N. Y., president of the Wesleyan Methodist denomination.

Dr. Paul F. Elliott was re-elected chairman. The camp is sponsored by 200 churches of six denominations.

Evangelism

Governor Proclaims 1957 Child Evangelism Week

FRANKFORT, Ky.—(RNS)—Gov. A. B. Chandler issued a proclamation calling upon Kentuckians to observe Feb. 17-24 as "Child Evangelism Week."

He commended the aims of the International Child Evangelism Fellowship which seeks to "reach the unchurched children of the nation through establishment of home Bible classes in every state."

"The delinquency problem of the country has been definitely linked with the lack of Bible teaching," the governor stated, and "we feel that the program of Child Evangelism Fellowship will go a long way toward reducing the delinquency problem."

Billy Graham Team Moves to New York

NEW YORK—With the plans and preparations for the forthcoming New York Crusade demanding nearly a round-the-clock operation and necessitating the services in New York of most of the administrative personnel of the Billy Graham Team, it was announced today that the Team Headquarters office in Washington, D.C., would be closed for the time being, and all matters relating to the Billy Graham Team would be handled from the New York Crusade Office.

Matters formerly addressed to 712 Pennsylvania Building, Washington, D. C., should henceforth be addressed to the Billy Graham Crusade Office, 165 West 46th Street, New York City, New York.

Youth

Engstrom New Head Of Youth for Christ

WHEATON, Ill.—Youth for Christ International has named Dr. Robert A. Cook, 44, of Wheaton, as chairman of its board of directors and Dr. Ted W. Engstrom, 40, also of Wheaton, its new president.

Dr. Cook, president of Youth for Christ International since 1948, resigned earlier to accept a position as vice president and head of the distribution division of Scripture Press of Wheaton, internationally known publishers and distributors of Sunday School materials.

Dr. Engstrom left immediately for Copenhagen, Denmark, to complete plans for the movement's Youth Congress on Evangelism next August. He has served as executive director since 1951. He will be acting president until the 1957 YFC convention in July at Winona Lake, Indiana, when annual elections are held.

Dr. Cook will remain full time with Youth for Christ until September 1. He will begin his work on a part-time basis with Scripture Press in the late spring and summer months.

The new president of Youth for Christ served as book editor of Zondervan Publishing House in Grand Rapids, Michigan for eleven years prior to coming to YFC in 1951. He is the author of nineteen books and is a graduate of Taylor University in Upland, Indiana, which school honored him with a doctor of letters honorary degree in 1955.

Other Youth for Christ officers include Evon Hedley of Toronto, Ontario, vice-president; Ed T. Darling, Detroit, secretary; and Elliott Stedelbauer, Toronto, treasurer.

Teenagers to Sponsor Church Emphasis Week

WASHINGTON, D. C.—During the week of March 4-10, more than 20,000 teenagers in the United States and Nova Scotia will go all-out to increase attendance at all religious services within their communities.

The teenagers, members of Allied Youth, Inc., have designated that week as "Church Emphasis Week." This year's effort is a follow-up of a similar project last year.

Raymond C. Lewis, Allied Youth's Executive Director, said in a special interview, "The conducting of Allied Youth's Church Emphasis Week, . . . dramatizes the true good in the kind of life our teenagers live. The greatest challenge facing men and boys, women and girls today is that of allowing themselves to achieve the heights of moral and spiritual values they have the capacity to achieve—rather than being satisfied with what is often referred to as "good enough" or living the kind of life which is satisfied merely with being "better than somebody else's."

Allied Youth, founded in 1931, operates in high schools as an extra-curricular club designed to present the scientific facts about alcohol to teenagers while promoting "Fun without drinking." It is a non-profit, non-sectarian and non-political organization.

In addition to providing alcohol information, Allied Youth gives tips on personality development and community activities leading towards good citizenship.

Education

Plan New Lutheran High School in Minneapolis

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn.—A movement is under way to establish the first Lutheran high school in the Minneapolis area.

Congregations affiliated with the Synodical Conference (Missouri, Wisconsin, Slovak and Norwegian synods) have been asked to send representatives to a meeting to discuss the proposal.

The meeting was called by the Minneapolis Area Lutheran High School Committee.

Protestants May Abandon The Public School System

MIAMI, Fla.—The president of the Greater Miami Council of Churches said here many persons may abandon the public school system in favor of private church schools unless religious instruction is offered by the public schools.

Rev. Henry Dahlberg, pastor of First Presbyterian church, told a committee of the Dade County school board that he was "not making a threat but pointing out that this is the predominant feeling of members of our congregations through the word of mouth and action in executive sessions."

He added church groups are "insisting that the problem be looked into and analyzed."

Mr. Dahlberg spoke to the recently-formed special school board commit-

FINAL

LATE NEWS AT PRESS TIME

● MRS. BILLY (MA) SUNDAY passed to her reward February 20 at the home of her grandson in Phoenix, Ariz. The 88-year old widow of the great evangelist had been active until recently in Youth for Christ and Bible conference work throughout the nation. Her husband died in 1936.

● DR. CLARENCE E. MACARTNEY, former moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church USA and noted pastor of First Church, Pittsburgh for twenty-six years, died at the age of 77 in Beaver Falls, Pa., February 18. Dr. Macartney, a staunch evangelical, wrote scores of books of sermons with an amazingly popular appeal.

● DR. JOHN E. BROWN, SR., 77, founder of five educational institutions, died at his home in Leucadia, Calif., February 13. John Brown University at Siloam Springs, Ark., is the most noted. Dr. Brown owned radio stations KOME, Tulsa, Okla., KUOA, Siloam Springs and KGER, Long Beach, Calif. He was an active member of the National Association of Evangelicals.

● NEW YORK EVANGELICALS have made a formal appeal to the State Welfare Department for the incorporation of an Evangelical Welfare Agency. This proposed state agency will be patterned after EWA of Chicago and other metropolitan areas.

● THE KADAR GOVERNMENT of Hungary recently held semi-official conversations with leaders in the World Council of Churches preparatory to a reorganization of the Hungarian Reformed Church. Anti-Communist leaders, elected during the recent revolution, are being eliminated. World Council sources are reticent about the conversations which have resulted in agreements with Communist leaders.

● BOYD H. LEEDOM, chairman of the National Labor Relations Board, has been elected president of International Christian Leadership, Inc. He succeeds Governor Price Daniels of Texas. Judge Leedom, a former judge of the South Dakota Supreme Court, has been active in breakfast prayer groups in Washington.

● THE HAITIAN TREATY, which fails to include the usual guarantees of religious freedom, has again been pigeonholed by the USA State Department and will not be presented to the 84th Congress for ratification. Roman Catholic pressures have forced the State Department to keep the issue from open discussion on the floor.

Protestant Preaching in Lent

by

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tee on religious education of which he is a member.

The committee agreed to meet again next month to discuss the "released-time" program under which students leave school one hour each week to receive religious instruction at their church or synagogue.

However, prospects of another deadlock seem likely since Miami Jews are opposed to the released-time plan.

Baptists Announce Plans For New Pillsbury College

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn.—The Board of Trustees of Pillsbury Academy, Owatonna has approved plans for the establishment of a four-year college granting a bachelor's degree, to be called Pillsbury Baptist Bible College. The president of the board, Dr. Richard V. Clearwaters, indicated that the new college, which expects to be ready to matriculate students in September, will provide co-educational training for youth desiring to enter Christian service.

Because of the pressing need for Baptist pastors, both the Minnesota Baptist Convention, which elects the Board of Trustees, and the entire upper Midwest region will benefit as graduates of the new Bible college become available to serve the churches.

The beautiful campus, consisting of a dozen very adequate educational buildings and an athletic field, has long been a landmark to the residents of the Owatonna area. Many of the facilities of the institution have been the gifts of Minnesota citizens, among whom was the late George A. Pillsbury, one time mayor of Minneapolis. Because of his many generous donations the school was named in his honor and will continue to bear his name.

As head of the new college, the board appointed Dr. Edward D. Simpson to serve as Dean. Dr. Simpson has a Doctor of Theology degree from Eastern Baptist Seminary, taught for eight years in the Bible College of Northwestern College in Minneapolis, and is this year President of the National Sunday School Association.

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sunday school

National Family Week Date Set for May 5-12

CHICAGO.—"Present Christ in the Home" is the theme for National Family Week, May 5-12 sponsored by the National Sunday School Association.

National Family Week has been promoted by National Sunday School Association annually for the past five years said Dr. Clate A. Risley, Executive Secretary. "Every year increased interest has been shown by cooperating denominations and local churches.

"More and more churches are realizing that for lasting effects the home must be reached for Christ.

"Children may attend Sunday school, but if youth are to attend Sunday school and church, parents must show more than nominal interest."

Bulletin covers, post cards and posters illustrating the theme, *Present Christ to the Family,* will be available from the Chicago office of the NSSA. Also a list of items to be used in observing the week and other miscellaneous suggestions for programming and promoting National Family Week are being provided.

denominations

Church of the Brethren Sees Membership Gains

ELGIN, Ill.—(RNS)—Church of the Brethren membership in the United States and Canada now stands at 197,607, an increase of nearly 2,000 over the previous year, according to the denomination's 1957 yearbook. Total world membership is 209,558.

The denomination has 1,056 churches, a gain of three during the year. There are 532 full-time and 340 part-time pastors.

A total of 1,039 Sunday schools report an enrollment of 155,890 and an average attendance of 104,582.

Giving of all Brethren congregations totalled $10,478,393. Of this amount, $1,251,760 was given for the denominational program represented in the Church's Brotherhood Fund.

Texas Baptists Set Goals for Advance

FORT WORTH, Tex.—The Baptist General Convention of Texas will seek to baptize 265,000 new converts during the next three years and start 3,500 new churches in the next seven years.

Both goals, unprecedented in the Convention's history, were announced

at its 19th annual evangelistic conference here.

The baptism target is 80,000 new converts in 1957; 85,000 for 1958, and 100,000 in 1959. Texas Baptists baptized about 65,000 persons during 1956, a new record.

The goal of 3,500 new churches was recommended by Dr. Wade Freeman, Convention superintendent of evangelism, as part of a denomination-wide building program for which Southern Baptists have set a goal of 30,000 new churches and preaching stations.

The 3,500 churches are almost as many as Texas Baptists have been able to build up during the past century. Their congregations at present total 3,724.

A mammoth stewardship program aimed at increasing annual gifts to churches by more than $5,000,000 during 1958 was launched here. The program also calls for training Christian stewards and developing stewardship churches. Texas Baptists are expected to give a total of $75,000,000 to their churches this year. The goal for 1958 is $80,000,000.

Evangelist Billy Graham was the featured speaker at the conference.

Disciples of Christ Membership Gain

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.—Membership in Churches of Christ (Disciples) in the USA and Canada was reported as 1,930,760 in their 1956 Year Book issued here. The net gain in membership during the last fiscal year was 23,250.

There were 60,145 persons added to the rolls by baptism and 64,284 by membership transfers. Indiana leads all other states in the number of Christian church members with 209,754. Enrollment in the church schools was reported as 1,278,651.

There were 8,062 churches in the USA and Canada last year, with 783 in Missouri, more than in any other state. Second in this category was Kentucky with 704, then came Indiana with 703.

The 301 organized Christian churches in foreign lands have a membership of 111,663.

Christian Reformed Church Plans Centennial Program

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich.—Twenty-one religious denominations over the world have been invited to participate in the centennial celebration of the Christian Reformed Church.

Climaxing a thirteen-week period of centennial observances, a week-long international celebration will be held at Calvin College here beginning June 10. It will coincide with the Church's 1957 synod.

The announcement was made by Dr. John Kromminga, centennial chairman and president of Calvin Seminary. He said all the Church bodies invited to send representatives to the celebration are linked to the Christian Reformed Church by doctrinal or historical ties.

They include the Reformed Church of South Africa, the Federated Reformed Church of South Africa, the Reformed Churches of the Netherlands, the Reformed Church of New Zealand, the Reformed Church of Australia and the Reformed Church of Indonesia.

Also the Reformed Church of Japan, the Free Presbyterian Church of Aus-

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tralia, the Reformed Church of Ireland, the Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland, the Reformed Churches of the Netherlands (Schilder Group), the Christian Reformed Church of the Netherlands, the Korean Presbyterian Church and the Dutch Reformed Church of Ceylon.

Invited Churches with headquarters in the United States are the Free Magyar Reformed Church, the Protestant Reformed Church, the Orthodox Protestant Reformed Church, the Reformed Church of America, the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, and the Reformed Presbyterian Church.

public affairs

"Martin Luther" Film Still Headline News

NEW YORK.—Future distribution strategy for the "Martin Luther" motion picture, still making headline news four years after being produced, was discussed here recently by the administrative committee of Lutheran Church Productions, Inc.

Offers from television stations in various areas of the country to show the Luther film were evaluated by the committee, comprised of representatives of the six major Lutheran groups which together commissioned the picture. While not divulging the sources of the offers, "they came in direct response to the cancellation by WGN-TV in Chicago of the scheduled world television premiere of 'Martin Luther' in December," according to Robert E. A. Lee, executive secretary of the film agency.

The committee also endorsed a statement urging churches, universities, colleges, seminaries and schools "to take advantage of the final offer" to acquire 16mm copies of "Martin Luther" before the April 15 expiration date.

The statement declared: "For the past year and a half, Lutheran Church Productions has been making this picture available for permanent educational and inspirational long-range use under a pioneering and experimental plan of volume sales of private leases. We are gratified that, as a result, 'Martin Luther' has had a record 14 million feet of 16mm film processed with the release of almost 3,500 copies; this, to the best of our knowledge, greatly exceeds that of any other title. It means that the Reformation history documented in this film will be communicated from church and school screens for years to come in communities throughout the United States and Canada."

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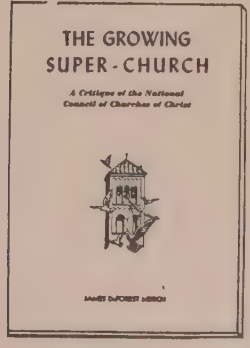
Illinois Supreme Court Upsets Custody Decision

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (RNS) The Illinois Supreme Court reversed lower court decisions which denied a Protestant couple their petition to adopt twin girls baptized as Roman Catholics.

At the same time the tribunal directed the Boone County Court to determine in further hearings whether adoption of the children by Mr. and Mrs. Dwayne Cooper of Belvidere, Ill., Presbyterians, would, in fact, promote their best interests in view of the difference in religion.

Boon County Court, in denying the



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petition, declared that Illinois law provides that, whenever possible, custody of children through adoption should be given to foster parents of the same religious belief as the child. This ruling was upheld by the Second District Appellate Court.

The Supreme Court opinion, read by Justice George Bristow, declared, however, that "the law does not bar adoption irrespective of all other factors merely because the adopting parents are of a different religious persuasion than the child.

"In each instance, the court has discretion to determine primarily whether the child's best interests are served by the adoption," Justice Bristow said, "and identity of religion between the child and the adoptive parents is a significant and desirable but not an exclusive factor to be considered by the court."

President Takes Oath On His Mother's Bible

WASHINGTON, D. C. —(RNS)— President Eisenhower took the oath of office for his second term with his hand resting on a Bible that his mother gave him shortly before he graduated from West Point in 1915.

The King James Bible was open to Psalm 33, verse 12, which reads:

"Blessed is the Nation whose God is the Lord; and the people whom He hath chosen for His own inheritance."

The President opened and closed his second inaugural address with prayers on behalf of the American people.

Although he did not ask the thousands of persons assembled at the Capitol to join with him in a formal prayer, as he did at his first inaugural, the President opened his address by declaring:

"Before all else, we seek upon our common labor as a nation the favor of Almighty God. And the hopes in our hearts fashion the deepest prayers of our people.

"May we pursue the right—without self-righteousness.

"May we know unity—without conformity.

"May we grow in strength—without pride of self.

"May we, in our dealings with all peoples of the earth, ever speak truth and serve justice."

"And so shall America," the President added, "in the sight of all men of good will prove true to the honorable purposes that bind and rule us as a people in all this time of trial through which we pass."

Concluding his inaugural address, Mr. Eisenhower referred to "our hope and belief that we can help to heal this divided world . . . that the weight of fear and the weight of arms may be taken from the burdened shoulders of mankind."

Then he said, as he ended his address:

"And so the prayer of our people carries far beyond our own frontiers, to the wide world of our duty and our destiny.

"May the light of freedom, coming to all darkened lands, flame brightly—until at last the darkness is no more.

"May the turbulence of our age yield to the true time of peace, when men and nations shall share a life that honors the dignity of each, the brotherhood of all."

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Minnesotans Ask for "Obscenity Control"

ST. PAUL, Minn.—(RNS)—An "obscenity control" bill backed by church and cultural organizations was introduced in the legislature here.

The measure, which is favored by librarians of the state, would place in the hands of district judges the question of whether certain printed matter is obscene.

Any person objecting to the sale of such literature would be required to swear out a complaint and appear in court to argue why he thinks it obscene. The author and publisher would be given the opportunity to explain why they think sale of the material should not be banned.

The bill sets forth certain questions to be resolved by the judge considering the case, including intent of the author and publisher, the audience at which the printed material is directed and its qualifications as artistic or scientific matter.

Roman Catholic Pupils Denied School Bus Rides

MONTPELIER, Vt.—(RNS)—Senator Fred B. Crawford of Orleans County "reluctantly" withdrew his bill calling for "mutual cooperation" of public, parochial and private schools in transporting their pupils. The measure would have required—in towns which voted for the plan—that public school buses carry parochial and private school students and vice versa. Sen. Crawford described his action as in "the best interest of all."

Withdrawal of the controversial measure averted what legislative leaders feared would develop into a bitter, emotion-packed scrap. The last legislative session was thrown into a turmoil before defeating a bill to provide parochial school children with transportation in public school buses.

Congress Again Gets Christian Amendment

WASHINGTON, D. C.—An amendment to the Constitution to recognize "the authority and law of Jesus Christ, Saviour and Ruler of Nations," has again been proposed in Congress.

Resolutions to submit the so-called "Christian Amendment" to the states for ratification were introduced by Reps. Eugene Siler (R.-Ky.) and James B. Utt (R.-Calif.). Several other members were preparing to submit similar resolutions.

Rep. Siler told the House that the proposed amendment "is in no way an encroachment upon the demarcation of Church-State separation."

"This amendment would neither recognize nor support with tax revenue any church organization whatsoever," he asserted.

"While this amendment would not in any way establish a Church it would recognize in a positive way the authorship and authorityship of the Supreme Being, and His Son, Jesus Christ, as the Saviour of mankind."

Mr. Siler added that "many people think the greatest deficiency of our present Constitution lies in its failure to recognize specifically God Almighty and America's definite position as a great Christian nation."

The resolutions were referred to the House Judiciary Committee.

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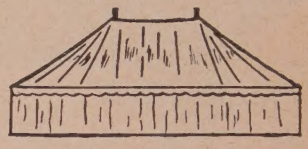

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NRB Sees Gains

(Continued from page 4)

in its original charter and the development of an effective "village green" campaign to preserve the rights and privileges of paid religious broadcasting.

The election of officers for 1957-58 will occur at Buffalo, New York, April 2 and 3 in connection with the annual official business convention. The sessions will be held in the Statler Hotel simultaneously with the convention of the National Association of Evangelicals. All members are urged to attend.

Repercussions of this great meeting are spreading far and wide. Many members of the National Council of Churches are saying that the action of its Broadcasting and Film Commission was ill-advised and should be modified or rescinded. The great press services of the nation covered the sessions and sent out fair and objective reports on the wires. Many religious journals outside the NRB orbit will carry favorable stories. The *Broadcasting-Telecasting* magazine, chief trade journal of the industry, had its reporters in all sessions. *Christian Economics, Liberty* and other magazines committed to the American freedoms will give generous space to the NRB story.

Dr. James DeForest Murch, president of NRB, said of the Washington convention,

"Tremendous gains in evangelical radio-television cooperation and united action were made.

"Top leaders in the industry, government and the religious broadcasting field participated in the program. Practically every major responsible evangelical Protestant broadcasting agency in the nation was represented.

"As we view the accomplishments of this history-making gathering we believe that the proclamation of the Christian gospel by radio and television will be greatly advanced, fellowship and mutual understanding among evangelical broadcasters will be deepened, our American freedoms of speech and religion will be preserved, united action will be promoted in fields of common concern and effective measures will be taken to discover better techniques for more effective religious broadcasting.

"With an NRB office in Washington and an effective strategy at the local level great days are ahead."

By the guidance of grace of God we are about to see a tremendous victory for evangelical Christian broadcasting in America.

[1] See Glenwood Blackmore's article, "Shall the NCC Control Religious Broadcasting," *United Evangelical Action*, July 1, 1956.

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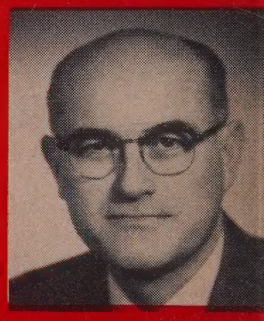

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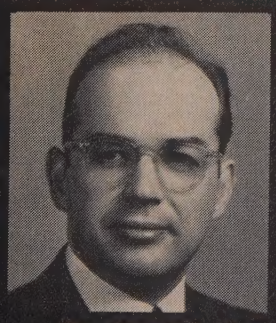

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